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"How to Breakdown Your Brick Wall"

BY

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M.A.G.I. Course Lesson #6 To acquaint the researcher with various techniques in identifying the parentage of their ancestor when no direct information can be found, consequently known in the genealogy field as "brick walls."

A brick wall is an ancestor you run across that just seems to pop-up out of thin air. This course teaches the student several methods for identifying their end-of-line ancestor and lists 14 sources for creating "bridges" to and from your ancestor and offers a 7-step process for identifying the next generation.

Floyd Thomas Pratt, F.H.C., M.A.G.I.

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"BEHOLD, I WILL SEND YOU ELIJAH THE PROPHET BEFORE THE COMING OF THE GREAT AND DREADFUL DAY OF THE LORD: AND HE SHALL TURN THE HEART OF THE FATHERS TO THE CHILDREN, AND THE HEART OF THE CHILDREN TO THEIR FATHERS, LEST I COME AND SMITE THE EARTH WITH A CURSE. MALACHI 4:5-6

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GENEALOGY WITHOUT DOCUMENTATION...IS MYTHOLOGY

OBJECTIVE

To acquaint the researcher with various techniques in identifying the parentage of their ancestor when no direct information can be found, consequently known in the genealogical field as "brick walls."

After 38 years of family history research, the question I am most often asked..."How do I breakdown my brick wall?"

A brick wall is an ancestor you run across that just seems to pop-up out of thin air. You can't seem to find information about them or their parentage.

Either, this ancestor is the end-of-the-line in your family history tree or because of a lack of information about them, they create an end-of-line problem. We all have them.

Usually these ancestors are pre-1850 census ancestors. It is frustrating when you run across these individuals because we can't find or build any bridges.

BRIDGES

A bridge is an event, item, document, or source that bridges one individual to another. These bridges can be obtained from several sources.

[1] Birth certificates bridge the person's birth to their parents and bridges the parents to one another.

Birth certificates are the most reliable and best source for bridging family individuals. Usually giving the date, place and time of birth of the individual. Also, disclosing the parent's ages and address and sometimes the occupation of both parents.

[2] Census records bridge children to the parents and bridge parents to one another.

Census records connect family members to one another and relatives, such as parents, aunts and uncles and grandparents in close vicinity to the subject of interest. Census records disclose ages, domicile, names, gender, marital information, children born and living, state in which they were born, state in which parent's were born, occupation, value of property and home ownership.

Census records also reveal relatives and family members by association. Living next door or a few houses from our subject, census records can sometimes reveal close family associations of brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, grandparents and in-laws.

See the *M.A.G.I.* Course Lesson 9 "**MAKING SENSE OF THE CENSUS**" covers reading and understanding census records.

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[3] Marriage certificates bridge a man and woman to one another. Sometimes listing the parents of the groom and/or the bride.

Marriage certificates reveal the subject's name, sometime domicile, age range, and location of the marriage, officiator, consenting parents and date of the marriage.

Concerning females, a marriage record can disclose birth surnames or previously married names. The prefix Miss before a name refers to that females married status as previously unmarried and Mrs. reveals she was or is currently married prior to the marriage transaction.

Sometimes married couples have been previously married to one another and they "renew" their wedding vows as an outward sign of their love and affection to their partner and reaffirm their commitment to this union.

See the *M.A.G.I.* Course Lesson #4 "A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME..." for the proper procedures concerning publishing female surnames.

[4] Wills and probate records are good sources for bridging spouses to each other and children to parents.

Wills or intestate papers can reveal close relationships between individuals especially when they contain property bequeathed to family members. These records can reveal children of the parent and spouses of those children either by given name or by referencing a daughter's married surname.

[5] Death certificates can help bridge children to parents and spouses to one another.

Death certificates like birth certificates can reveal vital, somewhat reliable information concerning your subject. Because the registrar is at mercy of the informant giving the information concerning the deceased, sometimes the informant was not a close friend or family member of the deceased.

I have found the only reliable information on a death certificate is the date and place of death of the deceased. All other information was submitted as hearsay and cannot be relied upon to be accurate. Using this source for vital information is risky and needs to be verified by other sources.

[6] Headstone information can be very helpful in bridging parents, spouses and children.

A headstone of the deceased ancestor can be a guide to further research. Not many are very accurate as to the correct name; dates of birth and death or even the burial location can be in question.

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One should examine all the data listed on a headstone and follow up with supporting information from as many sources as possible. Headstones can have wrong dates, places and annotations, which leads us to the next category of sources...websites.

See the book, "**Johnson-Caldwell Cemetery of Franklin County, Missouri**" by this author, which has extensive information concerning how to clean, read and record and preserve headstone information.

[7] On-line websites can be a reliable source of building family relationships.

As the Internet becomes more popular to family history researchers, in their zeal to publish their family history information on various web sites, many family historians post their family information without validating or verifying their information.

They violate the number one rule in family history research...documentation. I like the statement, "Genealogy without documentation ...is mythology". I am so fond of that statement I even include it in my *M.A.G.I.* Course heading.

Use web site information as a map to locate and validate what has been posted, but be cautious in using unsubstantiated, false or and misleading information. Do not fall in the trap of perpetuating false or erroneous data.

See the *M.A.G.I.* Course Lesson 5 "**THE ANATOMY OF THE CRADLE TO GRAVE (C2G) PROFILE**" for proper procedures on how to build an historical chorology on your ancestors using documentation and deductive reasoning.

[8] Newspaper articles can bridge individuals within a family and help to identify other family members.

Newspaper articles either written as "newsy" weekly items concerning the inhabitants of a locale sometimes announcing birth, death notices, obituaries, business arrangements, legal announcements and property transactions can reveal relationships to our subject of interest.

If the researcher is fortunate enough to be researching in a locale where daily or weekly newspapers were published, searching page by page for references to you ancestor can sometimes yield huge rewards.

Unknown death and burial locations can be revealed, unknown spouses; parents or children can be discovered. Occupations, business transactions as well as announcements of intentions to relocate by family members can be very informative.

Weddings as well as martial intentions and the birth of children would be very helpful to the family history researcher.

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[9] Deed and property transactions are good bridges, sometimes identifying spouses and offering valuable information about the sellers and/or purchasers.

Deed records sometimes reveal not only the domicile of the sellers but can also reveal the previous domicile of the buyer. In the event of a forced sale, or a distressed sale, sometimes death information and/or marriage information is recorded within the deed.

Previous locations of the parties involved can be a clue as to where and when they had previously domiciled. Sometimes whole farms and businesses were sold as a "package" to the buyer giving the researcher an approximate date as to when the buyer arrived in the county.

See the *M.A.G.I.* Course Lesson 10 "**GRANTEE-GRANTOR WHAT'S THAT MEAN?**" describing the differences between buyer and sellers of property and how to read deed descriptions and topographical maps.

[10] Photographs have identifying markers on the photo identifying the participants in the photo also make good bridges.

Old family photographs, if they have proper identifying annotations either on the front or on the back can help to identify ancestors and sometimes dates and locations are revealed.

Sometimes, as an additional bonus, when close relationships are observed and noted on the photo proving fellowship and/or occupations are disclosed. Also, photos can be a glimpse into the financial, emotional, and physical as well as the spiritual welfare of those individuals at the time of the picture.

Due to the age and condition of some of these photos, some repair is needed as well as maybe a caption before posting and distribution of your treasured photos.

See the *M.A.G.I.* Course Lesson 8 "How to Clean up Dirty Pictures" for a step-by step process on repairing and cleaning up old damaged pictures including how to add captions inside the frame or outside the frame of your pictures.

[11] Court, Criminal, Legal and Naturalization documents make good bridges between relatives.

Involvement in local politics either through criminal or legal transactions can reveal family relationships and are a good source of dating the location, place and time of an ancestor's private, personal or business activities.

Court records in the county of residence sometimes reveal your ancestor's business dealings as well and legal and financial transactions with the county court. They can also reveal adoptions, appointments and partnerships conducted in and for the county.

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Unfortunately, criminal activity can also be revealed concerning you ancestor, especially when flight from prosecution is a factor. On the other hand, lawsuits played a major activity in some of the lives of our ancestors and witnesses, sometimes relatives are mentioned in these court documents.

One of the most extremely beneficial documents for family historians found in courthouses is naturalization papers. Sometimes housed in the Federal National Archives, these documents were processed for foreign residents who desired citizenship in the United States.

These documents contain country of origin, including city and province of birth, parent's name, spouse's name and date of birth as well as date of marriage and all known children's birth date and birth locations.

Also, included in some of these documents is a list of occupations and resident locations including the date of arrival in the United States. If the researcher is fortunate enough to have an ancestor who filed for naturalization and citizenship, then it's like feasting on a smorgasbord of ancestral history. I have seen naturalization papers, where photographs of the ancestor were included.

[12] Military participation documents can give locale, relative and personal information about individuals and their families.

Service in one of the many military engagements, during the lifetime of the ancestor can reveal family relationships, through, enlistment, discharge papers and/or pension applications.

Sometimes, the information in these documents can be substantial revealing the parents, spouses and children of the participant. In the case of pension applications, marriage dates and locations have been revealed as well as dates of service.

If your ancestor died during their tenure in the service to their country, burial locations as well as monument applications are very helpful.

[13] Bible and church records bridge children to parents and parents to each other.

In early American history, the local church was a focal point for social as well as religious activity. Some church denominations, such as the Catholic Churches, kept parentage, birth, baptismal, confirmation and burial information concerning their parishioners.

These records, depending on the Church affiliation, are a great source of linking families especially prior to the 1850's. If religious affiliation is known concerning your ancestor, checking the history of the local churches, where your ancestor domiciled, might reveal a repository with information concerning parents, spouses and children's records.

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Family history recorded in bibles, should be verified since most were recorded from memory. Good for bridging, but probably one of the least reliable documentation concerning your ancestor.

[14] Interviews *the* least reliable source for bridging families.

When interviewing neighbors, family and friends of your ancestor, most testimonies are given from memory and are hearsay. Without supporting sources, recording these interviews is amusing and interesting by hold very little weight concerning authentication.

WHAT DEGREE OF KNOWLEDGE DO YE LACK?

In order to see past the "brick wall" one must first see where our "brick wall" has been.

If you are familiar and use the system of the Cradle to Grave (C2G) Profile as outlined in the *M.A.G.I.* course **"THE ANATOMY OF THE CRADLE TO GRAVE (C2G) PROFILE"**, you notice we always start with everything we know about an ancestor's birth date and birth location.

This was not just a whim, but a well-programmed process to validate all the sources that mentions your ancestor's birth date and birth location.

If your brick wall has been participating in pre-1850 census records then you have an approximate birth date...even if it is only a 10-year range as in the 1830-1840 census records or a birth before a specified date as depicted in the 1790-1820 census records.

If you are lucky enough to have more than one source of a birth date, then this will make it easier to find additional information about your ancestor.

If you can produce, spouses and children this also makes it easier to identify your ancestor's parentage. Complete the C2G profile until the burial of your brick wall.

After you have, as they say, "done your homework" and produced a C2G profile on your brick wall then it is time to concentrate on locating their parentage.

NO DATA? COULD BE A PERIL...START WITH THE OBVIOUS

Under the heading **"Bridges"** I listed 14 sources that can help link or "bridge" one person to another. Now we are going to concentrate on where to find these "bridges".

If you are having trouble with your brick wall's parental identification, then most likely you have not processed all the resources available to you unless, these sources could have been destroyed through **"perils"** such as war, fire, flood, negligence and deterioration and/or there is a possibility there never were any written records.

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We are going to assume that your “brick wall” is not someone who can be found easily if you would look in all the right places.

These brick walls would be people of interest of the 17th and 18th centuries, where not much data is available.

We are going to figure we are looking for the “beginning-of-the-end” person in you family tree.

The following is a research list of possible resources available to help identify your ancestor's parentage.

FINDING PARENTS IN PRE-1850 AMERICA USING THE RESEARCH LIST

If I were looking for the parents of someone in pre-1850 America, I would first follow the following research list in order.

[1] Check all ancestral databases online to see if someone else had posted your ancestor and/or their parents.

This would include but not exclusively; www.ancestry.com, family search, new family search, Rootsweb, Kindred Konnections and so forth. The more databases you check the more information you will find. Also, Google your ancestor's name to see what can be found. If the desired results have not been obtained move on to section 2.

[2] Check all local libraries in the county where your ancestor first made an appearance.

If your ancestor, referred to as your “brick wall” shows up in the 1850 census in a certain county in a certain state or territory, then looking at the family history material of that county library might reveal the desired results.

Sometimes, local families wrote books or manuscripts about their ancestors and donated copies to their local libraries. Also, maybe several transcribers transcribed marriage, deed, court or other notable legal documents and placed a copy of those books in the local library.

[3] Check local Historical Society's in the county in which your ancestor lived.

Almost every county in every state not only has a local historical society, but chapters of various organizations such as the DAR and the SAR and other affiliated groups. Members of these organizations pride themselves on their thorough research and have invested much time, effort and expense in validating their ancestor's participation in political and/or American military conflicts.

The DAR has a library in Washington D.C. several stories high full of ancestral history. In many counties, there is a designated historian all the locals turn to for ancestral reference and/or advice. Seek these people out to inquire about your ancestor.

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[4] Check the last courthouse of the county that your ancestor lived in before their death.

When visiting the courthouse, plan to spend several days in order to really access their records.

Not only are the marriage and divorce record books housed there, but also the deed, property transactions and court and other legal books, some as obscure as brand name books that were used to record the names of your ancestor and the brand that they used on their livestock.

Also, at the courthouse are county atlases, which usually listed individuals within the county at a certain date and some even list where these individuals came from before they domiciled in the county.

After all records of your brick wall's last courthouse has been exhausted, then move on to the next courthouse on your list...the one he lived near prior to the last courthouse. Continue this research at every courthouse looking for the bridges listed earlier, until you find his birth or entry point into the United States.

[5] Check local newspapers of the county where your ancestor first made an appearance.

Each county usually had one, maybe two local newspapers servicing the county. These newspapers overlapped county lines so an event mentioning your ancestor may have been carried in several newspapers within the tri-county area.

Not only obituaries, but these newspapers also had local "newsy" items from each of their distinctive communities. These items talked about the locals visiting relatives on trips or relatives came to visit them.

They mentioned birth, death and divorce information, new or old business alliances, men and women serving in the military, burial information and other events of interest to the citizens of that time and place.

[6] Check all available census records after the birth of your ancestor.

If you "brick wall" ancestor has been identified in the 1850 and subsequent census records until their death, then with census collaborating evidence a birth date and birth state location should have been revealed and substantiated.

Prior to the 1850 census, you must project a "mock" census for the years of 1790, 1800, 1810, 1820, 1830, and 1840. A "mock" census is a hypothetical census you create to project, if and what your ancestor's family would look like in that particular census year.

For example, if your ancestor in the 1850 census says he is 47 years old and born in Tennessee, with a wife age 45 born in Missouri and a son aged 17 born in Missouri, then the 1840 census should show his age bracket between 30-39 and his wife's age bracket between 30-39 and his son's age bracket between 5-9.

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Also, be flexible, in your interpretation, there may have been more children unknown to you, who did not survive or married and left the house by the 1850 census...or one of the spouses had a previous marriage with additional children.

By setting up a "mock" 1840 census the above example would look like this...

Ancestor's name 0-1-0-0-0-1 0-0-0-0-0-1

With this example, you would check every 1840 census starting with the county they lived in according to the 1850 census and check for your ancestor's name with similar or matching criteria.

Since his wife, according to the 1850 census, was born in Missouri in 1805, which is incorrect because Missouri had not become a state until 1821, would indicate she had been born elsewhere.

Using the above example, you should look for a marriage record prior to the birth of the son mentioned in the 1850 census, who was born in 1837 in Missouri and after the spouse's marrying age at around 15-19, which would be 1820 to 1824.

Since she was ready for marriage in the 1820's she may have been previously married before she married your ancestor.

Once you have identified your ancestor and his family in the 1840 census, then continue with your projections and create a "mock" census for the 1830 census.

Continue this process until either you have an approximate county and state of your ancestor's birth or the census records are not available for the areas in which you need to research.

[7] Take a road trip to the county your ancestor first made an appearance.

Once you have an approximate state and county from which your ancestor originated...then it is time for the most vital step in your ancestor's parental identification.... the road trip.

No amount of time on the Internet, no amount of data on his life, no amount of information is as important as the personal one on one road trip.

If your ancestor came from Botetourt County, Virginia, then Fincastle or bust!

When you get to the County seat of your ancestor's origin, then reapply items **[2]** through **[5]** from above and begin your exciting adventure.

If your experience is anything like mine, you will be overwhelmed with the amount of information available about your "lost" or "brick wall" ancestor.

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I would not be surprised if you not only found the parents of your “brick wall” but you would also find several additional generations.

THIS IS NOT LIP SERVICE BUT HANDS-ON RESULTS

Some of you may feel that I make up these course topics to feed my ego or vanity. I assure you, after 38 years of family history researching, everything I ask of you, I have done and in spades.

Case in point, my 3rd Great Grandfather; Benjamin Johnson was one of my “brick walls”. Not only was he a brick wall to me, but also to a dozen of other Johnson researchers who had been trying to identify his parents long before I took up the research in 1975.

I did my usual C2G Profile and was not finding any results in my research. Of course, being human, I wanted someone else to hand me the information I needed and dump it into my lap.

However, this was not to be the case. Since the Internet did not exist back then, I began with step [2] and as I completed each assignment I continued to step [7].

What information all the other researchers had was...Benjamin Johnson was born 31 March 1775 in North Carolina and he had married Amelia (**GASTON**) or Gatson around 1795-1799 and had moved to Franklin County, Missouri before the 1830 census.

His birthdate had been calculated off of his headstone, which stated he died 18 February 1852 aged 76yrs 10mos 18 days. This calculated to be a birthdate of 31 March 1775.

After running C2G Profiles on each of his children hoping some of their documents would disclose their home in North Carolina, I came to the realization I was going to have to actually go to North Carolina and do some hard-core research...if I wanted to know his parents.

PREPARATION...

Before I could embark into the records and files of North Carolina, I needed to know where I was going.

I began by checking all the local libraries in Franklin County, Missouri where he had been living since 1830. [Step 2]

The library system of Franklin County belongs to a conglomerate that connects several counties making books available to less affluent counties for their patron's to read.

By researching in the Franklin County main library, I was able to cover much material from several counties. Also, I checked the Four Rivers Historical Society [Step 3] hoping to identify where he came from in North Carolina, again, no such luck.

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Moving on to [Step 4], I checked the courthouse for any identifying papers and materials that related to my Benjamin Johnson.

I discovered multiple land acquisitions and sales (over 30) and his will and other family documents. However, none of these sources gave me a clue as to where in North Carolina his family came from.

I was beginning to understand why none of the other Johnson family researchers could identify Benjamin Johnson's ancestry; this was going to be hard.

All the old newspapers from Franklin County, Missouri [Step 5] had been sent to Columbia, Missouri to the State Historical Society for microfilming. All of Missouri's counties were ordered to send their old newspapers to Columbia and at that time many of these newspapers were not even cataloged, let alone microfilmed. So, I skipped this step hoping to see these papers at a latter date.

My next step [Step 6] and most arduous task was backtracking Benjamin Johnson through the census records...forcing me to invent the process of mock censuses.

PRE 1850 CENSUS RECORDS...

Early efforts in understanding the pre-1850 census records have prepared me for the understanding I now possess when tracking client's ancestors.

I found, the 1830 & 1840 census records were taken after 1 June 1830 and after 1 June 1840. This is important when assessing a child's birth date or marriage dates.

I also discovered, these two census schedules were "set-up" in an identical age format.

The ranges of ages were listed in 13 columns.

The first column listed children aged 4 & under.

Up until now, I have been frustrated by transcribers using the 0-5, 5-10, 10-15, 15-20 *etc*, age brackets when the census forms are clearly marked age 4 & under, 5-9, 10-14, 15-19, 20-29 *etc*.

For 20 years they continued to use the "old ladies" method of recording census records. The reason I call that method the "old ladies" method is because prior to the 1950's most family history research was done by older women who published books on the census records and used that method of age identification. I have seen new material now where those errors have been corrected...finally.

Following is a table I created to help researchers understand these census records.

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1830 & 1840 Census Key												
Males & Females												
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
4 and under	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	90-99	100 +

The easiest way to count in the 1830 & 1840 census is to start by calling the first bracket 0, then 5, then 10, then 15, then 20, then 30 etc.

This code applies to your ancestor after his name... using this example; 0-1-5-0-1

Using the above example, you know he had no sons 4 or under years of age and 1 son aged 5-9, 5 sons aged 10-14, and he was the 1 male aged 20-29.

Of course, the females follow the males and are in a separate bracket than the males so the first 13 columns are the males and the next 13 columns are the females.

I found Benjamin Johnson with his family in the 1830 census as depicted:

1830 Federal Census age 55

Saint John's Twp, Franklin, Missouri, United States, page 134 taken after 1 June 1930

JOHNSTON, Benjamin 0-0-0-1-2-0-0-1 0-0-0-0-0-1-0-0-1

free white males 15-19 [Wilson age 15]; 20-29 [Martin age 25]; 20-29 [William age 27]; 50-59 [Benjamin age 55]

free white females 30-39 [??]; 60-69 [Amelia age 60]

[Living next door to son; Dyson & Malinda (**DENT**) Johnson family.]

Concerning the proper method for listing female birth surnames read the *M.A.G.I.* Course Lesson #4 "**A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME...**".

Concerning the proper method for listing census data in the Cradle to Grave Format read the *M.A.G.I.* Course Lesson 5 "**THE ANATOMY OF THE CRADLE TO GRAVE (C2G) PROFILE**"

Concerning the proper method for reading and understanding census records read the *M.A.G.I.* Course Lesson 9 "**MAKING SENSE OF THE CENSUS**"

In the above census, using the birth data concerning his children from subsequent census information, I was able to "insert" their names and approximate ages.

This is tricky because you must know everything about the children in order for this to work.

You cannot list married children in the census if they had already been married by the census date and were living in separate households.

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My problem...where was Benjamin in the 1820 census and prior?

Now this gets tricky...many of the eastern states' census records prior to 1830 were "lost" to one of the perils I listed on page 3.

Since I did not know **when** Benjamin and family came to Franklin County, then I was educationally challenged because I didn't know if he came to Franklin County before 1820 or after and to complicate the research more...Missouri lost all their census records prior to 1830!

Checking the Deed records in the Franklin County, Missouri Courthouse for Benjamin Johnson I came up with a land purchase dated 10 June 1828 as depicted below.

1828 Property Transaction

[1] U.S. General Land Office Records, 1796-1907 Certificate #1537 10 June 1828
 Name: Benjamin Johnson Issue Date: 10 June 1828 State of Record: Missouri Acres: 80
 Accession Number: MO0040__ .007 Metes and Bounds: No Land Office: St. Louis Canceled: o
 US Reservations: No Mineral Reservations: No Authority: April 24, 1820: Sale-Cash Entry (3
 Stat. 566) Document Number: 1527 Legal Land Description: Last ½ of the SW¼ of Section 35,
 Twp 44N, Range 1W, 5th PM Meridian in Franklin County, Missouri.

See the *M.A.G.I.* Course 10 "**GRANTEE-GRANTOR WHAT'S THAT MEAN?**" for additional help in reading and plotting deed locations on topographical maps.

This property purchase, told me they were in the Franklin County, area in 1828.

Knowing Benjamin came from North Carolina, I decided to take a chance and investigate the 1820 census data of the **whole** state of North Carolina.

TALK ABOUT A NEEDLE IN A HAYSTACK...

This is my census grid for the 1820 Federal Census.

1820 Federal Census Key										
Males						Females				
1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5
9 and under	10-15	16-18	16-25	26-44	45 and over	9 and under	10-15	16-25	26-44	45 and over

Children aged 9 and under are recorded in modern day math as <9, which means less than 9. Men aged 45 and over are recorded in modern day math as 45>, which means aged 45 and greater. Upon a close examination, the males' ages 16-18 contains no differentiating process from males aged 16-25. But, that's the way the government did it.

Looking at the census books...yes back in those days we didn't have computers or on-line census data or easy to find with a push of a button census information.

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We had to go to the local library, where we lived, and look at their census books, if we were lucky and they had a genealogy department. I needed to check the census books for all the Benjamin Johnsons in the 1820 Federal Census of North Carolina.

Many of the books had listed the participants by names and counties only with no persons in the household listed. I wrote down all the Benjamin Johnson and Benjamin Johns(t)on's on the 1820 census.

Once I found all the Benjamin Johns(t)on's I was looking for, I had to go and get the microfilm and sit down at a microfilm machine and look each particular Benjamin Johnson up on that film and record his household age brackets.

I repeated this for every Benjamin Johns(t)on I had in the 1820 North Carolina Federal Census records and there were many.

In order to "match" all those Benjamin Johns(t)on with my ancestor, I had to create a "mock 1820 census."

DON'T MOCK ME OR A MOCKING WE WILL GO...

A mock census record is a projection of the way, based on your available research from latter census records, how the family you are looking for should be portrayed in earlier census records.

For instance, I had Benjamin Johnson's complete family with names and birthdates so it would be easy to produce an 1820 mock census.

This is what his 1820 mock census should look like...

His oldest son, Townsend Johnson had married around 1817-1820, he was born 30 July 1799 according to headstone information. Therefore, I could not count on him being with his parents in the 1820 census.

The next son; William "Billy" Johnson born 16 February 1803, also according to headstone information, he would be age 17 by the 1820 census. So, he should be listed. The next son; my 2nd GGrandfather; Martin Johnson was born 22 March 1805 would be age 15 by the 1820 census. The next son; Dyson Johnson was born 28 October 1806 would be age 14. The next son; Thomas Howard Johnson born 1808 would be age 12. The next son; Wiley Johnson born 6 April 1812 would be age 8. The last-born we think... Wilson "Willis" Johnson born 1815 would be age 5. Yep...no daughters...that we know of.

Based on the above information the 1820 mock census of North Carolina for Benjamin Johnson family should look like this...

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JOHNSON, Benjamin males 2-3-1-1?-either 1 or 45> and 1 females would be Amelia was 6 years older than Benjamin so she would be 45>.

Free white males <9 [Wilson age 5]; <9 [Wiley age 8]; 10-15 [Thomas age 12]; 10-15 [Dyson age 14]; 10-15 [Martin age 15]; 16-18 [William age 17]; 16-25 [maybe Townsend if he wasn't married yet age 21]; 45> [Benjamin age 45]

Also you must be mindful that maybe your ancestor spelled their name differently than they do today, take into account census takers were not very literate and many phonetically spelled the names.

Applying all the variables that could be my Benjamin Johns(t)on family I came up with this mock 1820 possibilities. Remember no daughters...only wife Amelia.

Johns(t)on, Benjamin males could be	23211	females could be	????1
	231?1		????1??
	23111		????1??
	231010		????1??
	231001		????1??

This is what I found...1820 North Carolina census whole state

			Males-females
Ben. Johnson	Ashe Co.	Page 10	111210-20010
Benjamin Johnson	Duplin Co.	Page 194	000001-00011-10
Benjamin Johnson	Johnston Co.	Page 272	000001-10110-02
Benjamin Johnson	Warren Co.	Page 802	000002-00011-03
Benjamin Johnson	Duplin Co.	Page 194	000010-10100
Benjamin Johnson	Wilkes Co.	Page 495	000101-20101
Benjamin Johnson	Surry Co.	Page 672	010101-00101
Benjamin Johnson	Edgecombe Co.	Page 104	000101-20101
Benjamin Johnson	Stokes Co.	Page 352	100010-00010
Benjamin Johnson	Iredell Co.	Page 247	131301-00011
Benjamin Johnson	Wilkes Co.	Page 495	200010-10010-01
Benjamin Johnson	Cumberland Co.	Page 144	210001-30001-11
Benjamin Johnson, Jr.	Surry Co.	Page 672	220001-12101
Benjn Johnson, Sr.	Cumberland Co.	Page 146	000001-02001
Benj. Johnson	Onslow Co.	Page 332	000101-21010-01
Benj. Johnson	Iredell Co.	Page 233	111201-00401
Benj. Johnson	Northampton Co.	Page 240	200010-00010
Benj. Johnson	Iredell Co.	Page 230	200010-32110-06

The only families above that came close to my projected mock-up were the following...

[1] Benjamin Johnson	Iredell Co.	Page 247	131301-00011
[2] Benjamin Johnson, Jr.	Surry Co.	Page 672	220001-12101
[3] Benj. Johnson	Iredell Co.	Page 233	111201-00401

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I knew that Benjamin had married Amelia (**GASTON**) around 1795-1799 before son Townsend was born in 1799. Some early researchers claimed her birth surname was Gaston, Gadsen or variations.

In the book, "**Pratt Progenitor Papers Volume 12 Benjamin Johns(t)on and Descendants**", I address Amelia's birth surname in detail.

I wanted to try to find a county that had some Gaston, Gatson, Gaskin or Gadsen families in it. Also, I knew that Townsend had married Rebecca (**DYSON**) in North Carolina so, I wanted a county reflecting some Dyson families nearby.

I dismissed Number [2] from my list because he had daughters and my Benjamin Johnson did not have any daughters...that I was aware of. I also dismissed number [3] because he too had daughters. So number [1] was looking good. Even though #1 had an adult female besides Amelia, could have been someone's wife.

Using the actual 1820 census data from above, Number [1], I applied the known children and came up with the following;

CENSUS: 1820 Iredell Co., NC Page 247			
Benjamin Johnson	1-3-1-3-0-1		0-0-0-1-1
Ages	Free white males	Ages	Free white females
9 & Under	Wilson age 5	26-44	Rebecca (DYSON) age 20
10-15	Wiley age 8	Over 45	Amelia age 50
10-15	Thomas Howard age 12		
10-15	Dyson age 14		
16-18	Martin age 15		
16-25	William age 17		
16-25	Unknown Son????		
16-25	Townsend age 21		
Over 45	Benjamin age 45		

It appears that newly married in 1817 Townsend and Rebecca (**DYSON**) Johnson were living with **his** parents.

Even though this was a major breakthrough, I was still cautious because I could be wrong in my assumptions.

Now it was time to get really radical...more projections.

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MORE, MORE, TAKE THEM ALL THE WAY BACK...

Now that I was reasonably certain that Iredell County, North Carolina was where I should look, I decided to take the mock census back to the 1810 Federal Census.

This is the Census Grid for the 1810 Federal Census...

1810 Federal Census Key									
Males					Females				
1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
9 and under	10-15	16-25	26-44	45 and over	9 and under	10-15	16-25	26-44	45 and over

This is what I was reasonably sure I was looking for as a mock up census...

Benjamin Johns(t)on Males 41?1? females ???1?-??

I was not surprised to find what I found in the 1810 Federal Census of North Carolina. My interest had shifted from Iredell County to Rowan County because several of the allied families' names popped up in the 1810 Rowan County, North Carolina census.

Notice the little numbers above the census numbers below? These are the columns on the 1810 census *i.e.*, 1-5 are the males, 6-10 are the females.

1810 ROWAN COUNTY, NC.

		1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10			1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Page 263	William Todd	10010-33110	Page 266	John Johnston	10010-10100
Page 276	James Johnson	01001-01210	Page 276	William Johnson	00100-00100
Page 276	John Johnson	00200-00100	Page 277	Eliza Johnson	01000-00001
Page 279	Richard Johnson	00010-20010	Page 281	Benjamin Johnson	30101-02110
Page 292	John Johnston	00201-00001	Page 292	Basil Disen	00010-00001
Page 294	Valentine Hunter	00010-00300	Page 297	John Hunter	20100-01000
Page 297	Rosey Hunter	00101-03101	Page 302	Manchester Johnson	00100-00100
Page 302	Nathaniel Johnson	11211-02101	Page 305	John Jameson	00010-00001
Page 307	James Jameson	20010-10010	Page 307	William Jameson	00001-00011
Page 307	William Gibson	30110-00010	Page 312	Samuel Johnston	00200-10100
Page 312	William Luckey	12101-11110	Page 312	William Johnson	30010-10010
Page 312	John Johnson	20010-30110	Page 313	Richard Luckey	11010-01000
Page 313	Samuel Luckey	21010-21111	Page 313	Robert Luckey	01010-21110
Page 315	James Todd	11210-01110	Page 316	Thomas Dent	01001-71011
Page 317	Towsen Dent	30010-11110	Page 317	John B. Dent	00010-00100
Page 322	George Johnson	00201-00101	Page 326	Zacaria Johnson	30010-01010

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Several of the Dent children settled in Franklin County and married into local families. Valentine Hunter settled in Franklin County, Missouri. The Luckey family as well as the Niblock family settled in Franklin County, Missouri. I started to see a pattern with Johns(t)on associations with allied families.

The Benjamin Johnson on page 281 seemed to have all the ducks (children) in a row...except for a major discrepancy...he had daughters.

Look at the name association factor...my Benjamin names one of his sons; Townsend, look at Towsen Dent. Benjamin lives close to Basil Disen, his son Townsend married Rebecca (**DYSON**). My Benjamin names one of his sons; Dyson Johnson.

However, I do have my problems with this census as stated...

[1] If this is our Benjamin in Rowan Co., NC then where's his son, Thomas Howard Johnson in this census?

According to the 1850 Franklin Co., MO census, Thomas should have been born in 1808. Therefore, he should have been listed as age 2 in this census.... unless he was actually born after 1810. Also, who are the females?

[2] Another problem with the 1810 Rowan Co., NC census is it shows Benjamin as 45 and over. Actually he would have been 35.

If this was not our Benjamin maybe we should look at the 1810 census of Iredell County, North Carolina.

1810 IREDELL Co., NC

<u>Page 154</u>	<u>William Dyson</u>		Page 154	<u>Barton Dyson</u>	
Page 154	Joseph Dyson		Page 155	Thomas Lovelace	02001-10201
Page 155	John D. Johnston	10010-30010	<u>Page 155</u>	<u>Benjamin Johnston</u>	<u>42010-00010</u>
Page 155	Greenbury Johnston	20010-10010	Page 156	Adam Johnston	10311-20511
Page 157	Robert Johnson	10010-01010	Page 171	Thomas Johnston	21001-13010
Page 174	Andrew Johnston	21110-41010	Page 174	John Johnston	00010-none
Page 191	Assa Johnston	31010-12010	Page 191	Polly Dyson	10000-13010
Page 198	James Johnston	30210-21010	Page 199	James Johnston	31011-31010
Page 199	John Johnston	10010-20010	Page 199	Benjamin Johnston	00010-30010
Page 201	Sally Lovelace	?0000-2?001	Page 202	George Lucky	00201-00100
Page 202	George Lucky	03101-00101	Page 203	Cossy Lovelace	none 11010
Page 203	Benjamin Johnston	21101-31110	Page 205	Baker Johnston	01100-00100
Page 206	Jesse Johnston	20010-10100			

Bingo, however, I have problems with this census also...

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[1] Concerning the 1810 Iredell Co. census, On page 155, Benjamin has listed 6 sons and **there is** room for Thomas who is listed as 9 & under, which he would have been age 2 and another boy is listed as 10-15. Benjamin is correctly listed in the 26-44 age bracket and there are no daughters.

[2] Couple this with the fact that Benjamin sold land in Rowan Co., NC in 1808 then we can conclude he moved to Iredell between 1808-1810.

[3] Another powerful piece of evidence is the fact, a few doors down are **William, Barton and Joseph Dyson. William's daughter, Rebecca married Benjamin's son, Townsend between 1815-1819.** Note: Iredell Co., NC marriage records lost in courthouse fires.

[4] John D., Benjamin & Greenbury Johnston are living next door to one another. I believe they are all brothers.

[5] So, I believe the census of Iredell Co. is the correct one. Just who the boy is between 10-15 is a mystery.

[6] Notice Benjamin is now using a "t" in the Johns(t)on surname.

This is what the Grid looks like in the actual census...

CENSUS: 1810 Iredell Co., NC, Page 502			
Benjamin Johnston	4-2-0-1		0-0-0-1
Ages	Free white males	Ages	Free white females
9 & Under	Thomas age 2	26-44	Amelia age 40
9 & Under	Dyson age 4		
9 & Under	Martin age 5		
9 & Under	William age 7		
10-15	Unknown Son?????		
10-15	Townsend age 11		
26-44	Benjamin age 36		

I hope you are seeing a pattern in this method of research. What I have been teaching you is the key to solving and breaking down your "brick walls."

Now is the time to take the census record back another ten years.

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1800 FEDERAL CENSUS

After fitting Benjamin's family in the 1810 Iredell County, North Carolina census, I was hoping to find a newly wedded Benjamin and Amelia (**GASTON**) Johnston with at least a 1 years old son (Townsend) in the 1800 census.

But first I must bring you up to date on the 1800 Federal Census...yep-same format as the 1810 census.

1800 Federal Census Key									
Males					Females				
1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
9 and under	10-15	16-25	26-44	45 and over	9 and under	10-15	16-25	26-44	45 and over

The following was found in the **1800 Rowan Co., North Carolina** Census:

	Males	Females
On page (448):	1 2 3 4 5	6 7 8 9 10
Benjamin JOHNSTON	1 0 1 0 0	0 0 1 0 0◀

Next to Benjamin JOHNSTON is:
 John JOHNSTON Jun. 001 101

On same page (448) with Benjamin JOHNSTON are:
 Samuel LUCKIE 01001 10001
 Samuel LUCKIE Jun. 3101 2001

On previous page (447) is:
 John JOHNSTON (SR) 31001 11101
 Thomas HOWARD 001 101

My comments about the above census are as follows...

[1] Since we know that Benjamin & Amelia had son; Townsend in 1799, we would expect Benjamin to be at least 25 years of age and Amelia to be around the same age. Even though she is listed in the older census records as being 5 years older than Benjamin. John Johnston Jun is in the same age bracket as our Benjamin. This is a strong indication that he was a brother. If he was...then John Johnston on page 447 was the father of our Benjamin, John Jr, & William. John Johnston is the last entry on page 447 and John Jr. is the first entry on page 448 followed by Benjamin. Two doors up from John Johnston Sr. is a Thomas Howard & family. Benjamin named one of his sons, Thomas Howard Johnson.

[2] I have now concluded through research that Samuel Luckey Jr. is the father of John Luckey who came with the Johnston's to Missouri in 1823. John Luckey is buried in the Johnson-Caldwell Cemetery outside Washington, Franklin Co., MO. with his daughters and sons.

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Elizabeth (**LUCKEY**) Johnson and Esther (**LUCKEY**) Daugherty Johnson and Franc Luckey and John F. Luckey. (See the Lucky family notes). All buried in Johnson–Caldwell cemetery.

See the book, "**The Johnson-Caldwell Cemetery of Franklin County, Missouri**" © 2004 revised 2014 by this author. The Johnson-Caldwell Cemetery first named in 1970 by the local inhabitants of Franklin County. Contains mostly Johnson ancestors on the property donated for the cemetery by property owner; Sam Caldwell.

[3] Don't get confused; John Luckey (1786-1853) is Elizabeth (**LUCKEY**)'s (1788-1861) brother. She married William H. Johnston Sr. in 1816 in Rowan Co., North Carolina.

[4] Concerning William H. Johnson Sr., (1784-1857) born in Rowan Co., NC, according to his daughter's article, Jane Caroline (**JOHNSON**) (1819-1903), which stated they came from Rowan Co., NC. In the 1800 census he would be 16 years old. Notice under John Johnston (Sr.) he has a son age 10-15 years old. Taking into account of the various age differences reported by poor memories, I feel this is our William and brother who lives next door to Benjamin in the 1850 Franklin Co., MO. census.

I visited Edwin Earl Johnson in Satellite Beach, Florida during the 1980's and he showed me a whetstone in his possession.

Edwin Earl Johnson, son of James Millard Johnson Jr. was given a whetstone used for sharpening knives by his father. This was a very special whetstone because it belonged to Martin Johnson my 2nd GGrandfather. Written on the whetstone is the inscription, "**Brought from N Carolina by Martin Johnson in 1823**". This stone measures 2" by 3" and is ½" thick. There is evidence of worn indentations where a pocketknife had been sharpened.

This gives the arrival date of the Johnsons to Franklin County, Missouri as 1823.

In addition I found the following article...

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LORD CORNWALLIS DEPARTS

But it is time to return from these sketches, that have little or no connection with the occupation of the British army, to the departure of Lord Cornwallis. Having remained in Salisbury part of three days, he took his departure early on Tuesday morning, the sixth of February. His march was up the Wilkesboro Road, crossing Grant's Creek, Second Creek, Third and Fourth Creeks. A march of about fifteen or eighteen miles brought them to their first encampment, on the west side of the South Fork of the Yadkin, not far from Rencher's (or Renshaw's) Ford. A little stream, called Beaver Dam, would furnish them water, and the well-to-do farmers of South River and Fourth Creek—the Johnstons, Luckeys, Grahams, Gillespies, and Knoxes—had capacious and well-filled barns, cribs, and granaries. It was at this encampment that William Young, mentioned in a previous chapter, had his adventures with the British soldiers. On the seventh, the British crossed the Shallow Ford of the main Yadkin, where little John Spurgen caught sight of them, and hastened with the news to General Greene. They there passed out of Rowan County.

"History of Rowan County, North Carolina"
 by Rev. Jethro Rumple, Page 167.
 Published by: Heritage Books, Inc.
 1540E Pointer Ridge Place, Bowie,
 Maryland 20716 ISBN: 0-7884-1203-5

[1] The Johnson's and Luckey's lived off of South Yadkin River & Fourth Creek in northern Rowan Co., NC. Looking at a map, you can see that Fourth Creek runs into Iredell Co., in fact, it is just a mile or two from Statesville, which is the county seat of Iredell Co. Need to check the land records for Rowan & Iredell to find out their exact residence.

THE 1790 FEDERAL CENSUS...

CENSUS: This is what the 1790 census should look like.

<u>????? JOHNSON</u>		
Ages	Free white males	Free white females
Under 16 years	= (2) Benjamin age 15 & William age 6	
Upward of 16 years	= (1) at least the father	

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????? JOHNSON Looking for our Progenitor in 1790 Census code: 21????

1790 Federal Census Key				
Free White Males	1	2	3	4
	5			
16 and over	15 and under	Free White Females	All other free persons	Slaves

There should be at least 2 males under 16 years of age and maybe Benjamin, William and John Jr.'s father.

Another census key that is useful is the following...

1784-1787 North Carolina State Census Key				
1	2	3	4	5
White males 21-60	White males under 20 and over 60	White Females any age	Blacks 12 to 50	Blacks >50 <12

PROBABLE CAUSE...

Now that I had completed my research process, or another words, "done my homework", I had enough information to warrant a field trip to Rowan and Iredell Counties of North Carolina.

Remember, my goal has always been to find the parents of Benjamin Johnson born 1775 in North Carolina.

With all the pointers pointing to Rowan and Iredell Counties, this would be the most logical place to begin my research.

So, in the early 1990's, I left my home in Florida and with wife and daughter in tow, headed for Rowan County, North Carolina.

I also wanted to visit, Monroe County, Tennessee where the Pratts were last living before they were forced on the "Trail of Tears" in 1838. I also wanted to visit Greene County, Tennessee where Henry and Nancy (**CARTER**) Pratt were married.

So, while the rest of you were taking vacations to Vegas and other places, I was taking my vacations in pursuit of my ancestral family roots.

When we arrived in Rowan County, following [**Step 2**] from page 4, the information at the libraries and courthouse were overwhelming.

Volumes of books had been translated from court records and marriage books and the libraries were full of Johnson, Luckey, Dyson and Gaston material.

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I only was able to scratch the surface in the two days I spent in Rowan and then 1 day in Iredell County, North Carolina.

I found references to hundreds of Johnson transactions and by matching my Benjamin and William, discovered other researchers had claimed their father to be John Johnston Sr. of Rowan County, North Carolina.

Coupled with what I found in the 1840 census of Franklin County, Missouri...

Benjamin & Amelia are living next door to Ben's brother; William Johnson age 50-59 and two doors down from son; Wiley Johnson and a few doors prior is son; Townsend Johnson, son; Martin Johnson, L. M. Drace, Drusilla Jamison and William Dyson.

It is highly believed that William Johnson and Benjamin were brothers since they both came from NC at about the same time and William is only 9 years younger than Benjamin. Also, they lived next door to each other. And they are buried in the same cemetery. William's daughter, Caroline married Benjamin's son Wiley. (First cousins)

By taking the time to go to the counties my ancestors were in, I was able to not only locate the parents of Benjamin Johnson but also tie the Luckey, Dyson and Howard families to the Johnsons.

Following the 7-point exercise listed on page 4 & 5, helped me solve my "brick wall" and I know it can help solve yours also.

When I was a young man selling insurance, I asked my instructor what was the difference between successful people and unsuccessful people.

He stated, "A successful person would sacrifice and do what it takes to get the job done, while the unsuccessful person is not willing to pay the price for success".

So, many of you, who wait and sit and hope someone will hand you the answers to your family history questions will never know the joy of discovery when you find those answers yourself.

Many of you **will** take the time, spend the money, research and take the trips to find the answers to your "brick walls," and I say bravo and accolades to you.

Which type of person are you?

Strange, I have discovered a peculiar behavior among those who do sacrifice and find the answers...they are very reluctant to share those answers and their research with others.

In their minds, these milestone and leaps in family history research has come at a great cost to them, while others have not and are not willing to "pay their dues".

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I hope this course helps you to break down your “brick walls” and I also hope, you will know the joy of discovery and satisfaction knowing in your heart, with help from our Heavenly Father, you and only you know how you found the truth.

Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I.

1 January 2011

Revised 20 March 2014

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EXAMINATION FOR *M.A.G.I.* COURSE LESSON 6

"How to Breakdown Your Brick Wall"

This examination is voluntary and required only if the *M.A.G.I.* designation is desired. This examination is to test the individual's retention of the knowledge obtained in this course and by implementing the procedures as outlined, verifies the success or failure of these principles.

Please email your answers and essays on separate paper. Be as detailed as possible and include any course suggestions or corrections. Thank you for your participation.

Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I.

1 January 2011

Revised 20 March 2014

1. What is a bridge concerning family history research?
2. Concerning bridges in family history research, in order of reliability and importance, 1 being most important and 10 being least important, please number appropriately and explain...

_____ Death Certificates Why?
_____ Deeds Why?
_____ Census Why?
_____ Marriage Records Why?
_____ Newspaper Articles Why?
_____ Birth certificates Why?
_____ Wills and Probate records Why?
_____ Interviews Why?
_____ Photos Why?
_____ Criminal, legal and naturalization papers Why?
_____ Bible records Why?
_____ Military records Why?
_____ On-line websites Why?
_____ Headstone Why?

3. When looking for ancestors of your "brick wall" what is the first activity concerning your ancestor?
4. What purpose does the Cradle to Grave (C2G) profile serve?
5. What is a peril?

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6. Concerning the research list in family history research, in order of importance, 1 being most important and 10 being least important, please number appropriately and explain...

- _____ Courthouse records Why?
- _____ Historical Society Why?
- _____ Road trip Why?
- _____ Newspapers Why?
- _____ Ancestral databases?
- _____ Census records Why?
- _____ Libraries Why?

7. What is a mock census? Please create one using your ancestor.

8. Explain how you discovered which county or counties might hold your "brick wall's" ancestor's information and how you arrived at that conclusion.

9. Explain your research actions when you took your road trip and the steps taken to discover the ancestors of your "brick wall"?

10. Explain your results and successes and how you discovered your brick wall's parents and any additional benefits from your trip.

Please submit your answers and essays on a separate paper. Be as detailed as possible and include any course suggestions or corrections. Thank you for participation.

Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I.

1 January 2011

Revised 20 March 2014

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Pedigree Chart for Floyd Thomas "Tom" Pratt F. H. C., M. A. G. I. by Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I.

4	Columbus B A Pratt	b. 1 December 1893 p. Hamilton Hollow, Johnson ~ m. 12 April 1919 p. Bourbon, Boone Twp, Craw~ d. 27 July 1947 p. Bourbon, Boone Twp, Craw~	8	Henry Winslow "Win" Pratt	b. 6 September 1869 p. near Osage Post Office, J~ m. 29 January 1893 p. Vilander, Liberty Twp, Craw~ d. 24 March 1914 p. near Crow's Creek, Boone~	16	Alexander "Alex" R. Pratt	b. March 1831 d. 1912	32	Henry Pratt	b. 1800-1803
2	Floyd Theodore "Ted" Pratt	b. 6 January 1927 p. near Bourbon, Boone Twp, Crawford~ m. 1 March 1947 p. Saint Clair, Central Twp, Franklin, M~ d. p.	9	Mary L M Missé Missey	b. 20 February 1874 p. Johnson Twp, Washington~ d. 17 April 1938 p. Bourbon, Boone Twp, Craw~	17	Mary Kimberlin	b. 1835 d. 1876-1880	34	Rhinehart E. Kimberlin	b. 1805
5	Rue Flavilla Johnson	b. 19 March 1894 p. Bourbon, Boone Twp, Craw~ d. 26 June 1983 p. Briarwood Manor Nursing ~	10	Judge J M Johnson Sr.	b. 29 September 1854 p. Moselle, Central Twp, Frank~ m. 14 May 1884 p. Liberty Twp, Crawford, Mis~ d. 21 May 1941 p. Bourbon, Boone Twp, Craw~	18	François C Missé Missey	b. 5 July 1845 d. 26 April 1916	36	Jean B Missé Missey	b. 28 May 1821
1	Floyd T Pratt F. H. C., M. A. G. I.	b. 3 January 1948 p. City Hospital #1, 1515 Lafayette Av~ m. 14 August 1972 p. Tyler Place United Presbyterian Ch~ d. p. sp. Bonnie Kathleen Bach	11	Mary Jane T Barton	b. 18 January 1861 p. near Pine Mountain Post Of~ d. 10 June 1913 p. Walnut Street, Bourbon Vil~	19	Cynthia N. Talbot	b. 3 April 1848 d. 28 March 1896	38	Benjamin "Ben" Talbott	b. 15 June 1811
6	Peter Conley Brown	b. 12 January 1893 p. Sharon, Weakley, Tennes~ m. 16 March 1924 p. Dyer, Tennessee, United S~ d. 3 December 1972 p. Halls, District #8, Lauderdale~	12	John A. Brown	b. May 1844 p. Perry, Tennessee, United ~ m. 18 November 1891 p. Dresden, Weakley, Tenne~ d. 31 July 1928 p. Nashville, Hermitage, Davi~	20	Martin Johnson	b. 22 March 1805 d. 27 September 1859	40	Benjamin Johnson	b. 31 March 1775
3	Delores "Doe" Virginia Brown	b. 31 October 1925 p. City Hospital #1, 1515 Lafayette Av~ d. 1 March 1981 p. Queen of Angels Hospital, 2301 Bel~	13	Obedience "Bedie" Lackey	b. 6 February 1871 p. near District 8 Post Office, ~ d. 14 January 1924 p. Western State Hospital, Bol~	21	Comfort Osborn	b. 10 June 1814 d. 26 April 1877	42	William Osborn	b. 4 July 1777
7	Olga Elmira O'Daniel	b. 11 March 1907 p. Island 21, Dyer, Tennessee~ d. 7 October 1993 p. Los Angeles, Los Angeles~	14	James Leonidas O'Daniel	b. 15 December 1869 p. near Rutherford Post Offic~ m. 22 May 1897 p. Dyer, Tennessee, United S~ d. 8 March 1921 p. Baird-Dulaney Hospital, Dy~	22	William "Billy" Barton	b. 20 November 1831 d. 7 January 1922	44	John Milton Barton	b. 1799
			15	Daisy Dean Bell	b. 7 September 1881 p. District #19, Walnut Grove~ d. 14 May 1920 p. Jackson Crossing, Civil Dist~	23	Harriet King	b. 23 July 1834 d. 3 February 1920	46	Rev. Jonathan King	b. 20 December 1800
						24	Joseph Brown Jr.	b. 1827 d.	48	Joseph Brown Sr.	b. 1785
						25	Catherine	b. 1825 d.	50		b.
						26	William Stevenson Lackey	b. 20 October 1822 d. 7 July 1893	52	Enos Lackey	b. 1797
						27	Nancy Basket Moseley	b. 11 October 1827 d. 20 September 1875	54		b.
						28	Stephen C. O'Daniel	b. 5 December 1812 d. 1881	56	Alexander O'Daniel Sr.	b. Abt 1749
						29	Elizabeth Ellen Gordon	b. 1840 d. 1872	58	John Gordon	b. 1813
						30	John Franklin "Frank" Bell	b. 1 July 1850 d. 1892-1893	60		b.
						31	Hettie M. Jackson	b. 16 December 1861 d. 19 April 1902	62	Alexander Jackson	b. 1840

A Little Something About Your Author.....

Floyd Thomas Pratt, F.H.C., M.A.G.I.



At the age of 19, Tom Pratt embarked on a career in law enforcement. This experience gave him training in detective and investigative skills. Little did Mr. Pratt know, how useful these skills would be in the field of genealogy.

Tom Pratt started his family research career in 1975 after becoming a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. His first calling as a new member was to serve in the newly created genealogical department or known today as the Family History Center in the Springfield, Missouri ward. This two-year calling gave Mr. Pratt a tremendous amount of experience helping others to research their families.

In fact, he felt family research came easy and required little effort on his part. In reality, years of reading and studying increased his expertise and he made it look easy to others.

Over the course of several years, Mr. Pratt was asked by his church to instruct several family history courses. This experience established a deep profound love for family and ancestors.

It was not uncommon for Mr. Pratt to spend 4 to 8 hours a day researching and compiling family histories in addition to his duties, as an entrepreneur in the insurance business.

The first major achievement for Mr. Pratt was a breakthrough on his Pratt family back to the early 1800's. Not satisfied with just the direct line research, Mr. Pratt branched out to research all connected lines and allied families.

This dedication led to 42,000 individuals and achieved expert status for Mr. Pratt on the families of middle and eastern Missouri, eastern and western Tennessee and central North Carolina.

Concerning Mr. Pratt's style of research, he is a strong supporter of the "hands on" approach. When he took family vacations, they usually went to libraries, cemeteries, courthouses, National Archive centers, and visited family members in various states. He attended multi-state family reunions and obtained his material from the actual sources when possible.

A Little Something About Your Author.....

Being a researcher of the highest degree, in 1991, Mr. Pratt formed the Pratt Publications Company and offered to the public, a series of books titled, The Pratt Progenitor Papers. This series of volumes are a collection of legal documents, stories, pictures and historical presentations concerning the families of Missouri, Tennessee and North Carolina.

The first three Volumes were released to the public in 1991 and were issued to 18 different libraries including the Library of Congress and the St. Louis Public Library. The next 7 volumes were published with a total of 43 volumes scheduled for publication.

In 1996, Mr. Pratt formed the Genealogical Institute to further the education of serious researchers.

The Genealogical Institute offers a series of educational materials to teach and instruct the uninitiated in the procedures of family history research. These courses offer "a hands on" curriculum designed to instruct in investigative, deductive reasoning and logical procedures for tracking your family history.

Beginners and experienced researchers have found a treasure chest of knowledge when undertaking these courses. Mr. Pratt has taken the hobby of genealogy and has enhanced it into a science. Heavy on instructions concerning documentation, research procedures, alternative sources and common public records, this course is a valuable tool for the researcher. One of Mr. Pratt's favorite sections of the course is teaching researchers "how to stop" researching and compile their information for publication.

Upon completion of the educational courses from the Genealogical Institute, the graduate is awarded the **Master Accreditation of the Genealogical Institute. (M.A.G.I.)**

This designation is equivalent to a Doctorate Degree and signifies the recipient has been trained and demonstrated superior research techniques.

Mr. Pratt's ability in family history research has amazed many educated researchers. When Mr. Pratt is asked for help concerning their "brick wall" in their family research, his quick wit and logical mind rapid fires instructions and procedures so fast they cannot write the material quickly enough. Little do they realize this knowledge has been acquired over 30 years of experience and research.

In June of 2000, Mr. Pratt undertook a new and unprecedented task.

Outside of Washington, Franklin County, Missouri is an old cemetery called the Johnson-Caldwell Cemetery. This cemetery has many pioneer heroes and ancestors of various descendants from that region. Some of the inhabitants were born in the 1750's and traveled west to Missouri after the 1803 Louisiana Purchase.

A Little Something About Your Author.....

Mr. Pratt took down all the information off the headstones, including every person in the cemetery and researched each individual related or not. 1000 man-hours and two years later, he published the book "Johnson-Caldwell Cemetery of Franklin County, Missouri"© 2001.

Obtaining newspapers, legal documents, personal interviews with ancestors and researching various sources for any and all information concerning the history of the cemetery and the inhabitants produced this master text. What makes this book stand out among the rest is basic content and structure.

First, it is the only book to cover the known and reported inhabitants of an entire cemetery.

Second, this book reports on each inhabitant, their birth and activities throughout their life until their death, including their ancestors, spouses and children.

Third, even the index is unique, listing the individual and their father's name if known. This is extremely helpful when several individuals have the same given name.

Upon examination, professional researchers have hailed this body of work as a masterpiece and a standard in which all future research of cemeteries should be based. In their opinion, no one has ever produced a body of work about a cemetery as unique and professional as this publication.

Currently, Mr. Pratt is working on a series of books from the [Pratt Archive Collections](#), which is a series of biographical publications concerning a progenitor and a generation of descendants. This collection is a "cradle to grave" report, which covers the subject's ancestry, birth, marriage, children, and geographical domiciles as well as the political environment during the subject's lifetime.

In addition, Mr. Pratt is working on additional volumes of the Pratt Progenitor Papers and several books on public records.

With all these accomplishments, Mr. Pratt humbly refers to himself as a Genealogical Anthropologist...resurrecting progenitors.

We in the genealogical world are deeply grateful to be associates of a man of Mr. Pratt's caliber. Through his dedication to helping the novice as well as the professional researcher, future generations will benefit by his advances in the genealogical field.

In addition, we are thankful for the inspiration that sparks men like Mr. Pratt to magnify their love for people and history. We feel, with a lifetime dedicated to the genealogical pursuit of truth and knowledge, Mr. Pratt's accumulative body of work, will stand as a quintessential manifestation of this divine love.

Lewton Cole, Chairman
Genealogical Institute



Genealogical Institute

The *M.A.G.I.* Courses

By Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I.

Over the past 38 years, Mr. Pratt has observed a lack of organized research guidance to help the serious genealogy researcher.

One organization...the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and their Family History Center has been a magnificent repository of information needed to help advance genealogical research.

Another organization, Ancestry.com has a wonderful repository of worldly records with donated family histories, however, even that institution is at the mercy of individuals who are willing to donate their publications and research. Consequently, a multitude of research material never makes it to their doors.

The Genealogical Institute was created to offer superb research tools to help the genealogical researcher in three vital areas... research, academic and publication.

The following tools and courses have been designed to assist the public in genealogical research and help fill the void in their genealogical education.

RESEARCH ASSISTANCE DIVISION

Each person who sets out to research their family history has various motives.

- Some wish to know if anyone was famous in their line.
- Others wish to know how their family came to settle where they did.
- Others want to know basically, why weren't they born rich or wealthy.
- Another group are just curious about the stories concerning their ancestors they heard their parents or grandparents tell them when they were young.
- The last group, and foremost, research and develop their genealogy in order to comply with the Lord's commandments as mandated to their church leadership. This group of people are affiliated with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints or known to the world as "Mormons".

Regardless of their motives, they all have one common goal and that is to find out factual information concerning their ancestral history.



The Research Assistance Division of the Genealogical Institute was organized to help those researchers who need additional help and want to hire researchers with a common interest in their families.

Many times I have seen work from other paid "professional" researchers and have been disappointed by their results. Not only have they failed to supply answers to the queries presented, but have failed to exceed the client's expectations.

This kind of research delivers disappointment and discouragement. I feel many professional researchers are more interested in billing hours than offering concrete progress to the client.

Our primary concern at the Genealogical Institute, Research Assistance Division is to open closed doors for the client and allow their research to progress. Therefore, we charge a flat fee. If we cannot progress your inquiry further, we offer alternate suggestions to help your genealogical research.

Our researchers, after researching your ancestor, generate reports sometimes up to hundreds of pages concerning your ancestor. These reports are extremely beneficial and help guide the client to additional resources for family information.

Our researchers have years of experience and knowledge of the migration habits of the early pioneers of the United States and can access vital records needed by the client.

This acquisition of early history required years of academic study as well as location investigations namely; road trips, travel and interviews coupled with visitations to historical sites have increased the knowledge of our researchers beyond the norm.

Due to the common interest in family history, extensive information has been accumulated in our libraries concerning marriages, deeds, probate, births, deaths, obituaries, pension, military and cemetery records of Missouri counties as well as the eastern states.

Not only do we have an extensive library of Missouri records, we also have hard to find rare books concerning Missouri families.

This gives *our* researchers an advantage. Other researchers who are not as familiar with Missouri counties usually stop digging for information and facts when the research gets complex.

Familiarity with the families, location and history is vital to obtaining the answers needed to advance genealogical research.

Over the last 38 years we have amassed information on 42,000 individuals in all points of the United States. Heavy on families who lived in Franklin, Crawford, Washington, Gasconade, Jefferson, Ste. Genevieve, St. Francois, and St. Louis Counties of Missouri.



Our research fee is a flat **\$25 per individual**

For this fee you receive a descendency chart on your primary ancestor, pedigree chart, family group sheet, notes, sources, documentation, children's spouses if known and a detailed report to help you continue researching. If a Cradle to Grave (C2G) Profile was developed for your ancestor, we will include their spouse's profile and a family group sheet showing all children.

If your ancestor is not in our files, we will offer advice as to where you can find information on your ancestor. Sometimes these reports are a few pages and sometimes they are lengthy. If interested, email your information to Floyd Pratt at floydpratt59@yahoo.com and I will notify you as to the extent of information I have in my files.

ACADEMIC DIVISION

There are scores of books describing how to research your family tree. Some emphasize Internet connections, others dwell on family histories and others describe available public resources.

None of these books actually teach you systematically how to research your family history.

With these shortcomings, I have devised a system of courses that teaches the novice how to research genealogy and after completion you will be qualified and designated as a professional genealogy researcher.

This course is called the *Master Accreditation of the Genealogical Institute* or better known by the acronym, *M.A.G.I.*

M.A.G.I.

Many researchers feel they already know how to research their family history. However, I have found that many researchers can only do one thing well.

[1] Some are Internet pirates and can copy information from the Internet.

[2] Others can write local or civic histories, still others have developed proficiency in writing personal histories.

[3] Very few have attained a level of skills mastering the spectrum of genealogical research.

The Master Accreditation course teaches the skills necessary to achieve a Master designation in genealogical research with the proficiency of a doctorate at the academic level. This is achieved through years of study and dedication to the art of genealogical research.



The *M.A.G.I.* course teaches three phases of advancement. First; compilation, second; research and third; exposition. Within each of these divisions lies a significant amount of educational information.

COMPILATION

Requires the gathering of information concerning genealogical research. In this phase, the student is taught how to interview, how to record, and how to preserve information concerning the ancestors they are interested in researching.

In addition they are taught the correct method of transcribing the information into their records. Many times I have been appalled by the inadequate research methods utilized by researchers and their failure to document their research. The student is taught professional procedures.

Protocols for visiting relatives, libraries, cemeteries and public records are discussed and verified as part of the educational process. At the end of each lesson are questions and sometimes-physical requirements necessary for the student to progress. After successfully completing each portion of the course the student advances on to the next level of training.

RESEARCH

Valuable resources are discussed and listed according to significance. Everything from family histories to public records are evaluated and prioritized according to the importance of the research process.

How, where, when and why are answered pertaining to the source of documentation... emphasizing validation procedures.

- How to find information when needed.
- Where to look for needed information.
- When to visit the necessary sources.
- Why question and validate each source.

Critical investigative procedures are emphasized and required. Deductive reasoning and learning to read "sign" are vital components of the academic process.

And finally after spending months and years acquiring genealogical information the most important procedure of all is revealed...how to quit.

Much of this information has been obtained expending time, effort and great expense. What to do with this information and how to preserve it for future generations leads us to the final phase of the Master Accreditation course.



EXPOSITION OR PUBLICATION

With years of research material, usually I have found many researchers are lost as to the disposition of such investment and dedication. This phase teaches how to preserve and publish your material for outside sales.

Also, of vital importance are the dissertation procedures. The student is taught every phase from giving an oratory report and how to teach classes concerning their research.

Finally, the publication process can be broken down into three areas.

- Publishing material on your own family history.
- Publishing material on the family history of others.
- Publishing material through the “*Adopt a County*” program.

After accumulating volumes of information concerning your direct ancestors, publishing your family history on your own ancestors lends credibility and legitimacy to your work. The course teaches how and offers alternative methods for publication.

Publishing material on the family history of others can be accomplished in various means. This course investigates these methods and helps the student achieve the desired results.

As a final test of proficiency in the genealogical researching process, the “Adopt a County” program was instigated to challenge the student to use all the knowledge and resources acquired over the tenure of their career.

Upon completion of the course and to the satisfaction of the directors of the **Genealogical Institute**, the student is awarded the certificate of the *M.A.G.I.*

This distinction represents years of study and assures the public the bearer holds a high level of proficiency in the field of genealogical research.

Many researchers today have achieved various degrees of proficiency in genealogical research but very few have risen to the level of a *M.A.G.I.*

It is with great pride and satisfaction that we can offer a program of this caliber to the public.

Lewton Cole
Chairman



MASTER ACCREDITATION OF THE GENEALOGICAL INSTITUTE

M.A.G.I. Courses

By Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I.

Course Lesson 1: "Genesis...in the Beginning"

To acquaint the researcher with the origin and history of genealogy also known as family history research and the progress of the use of modern day tools for its progression and popularity.

This course examines all facets of family history research from its prophetic origins to the preparation through inspiration and implementation by various inspired individuals.

This course reveals the originator of family history research and the steps taken to fulfill latter day prophecy as depicted in the Holy Scriptures.

We take a stroll, with the author through the early years and look at the last 50 years of the evolution of family history research and the impact this multimillion-dollar industry has had on society.

Upon completion of this lesson, the student is enlightened to the divine purpose and eternal consequences of family history research and the importance of such endeavors.

Subscribers, upon completion of this lesson, complete a written exam testing their knowledge of the course contents and perform examples by implementing course principles. Each successful exam completes a step to the M.A.G.I. designation.

Upon completion of all M.A.G.I. course lessons, the student is awarded a certificate and the M.A.G.I. designation.

Course Lesson 1: Available as a .pdf file 26 pages sent over email or on a cd for \$35.00

Course Lesson 2: "To Organize or Not to Organize...There is no Question"

Acquaint the researcher with the understanding of organizing their research work. To teach the proper procedures when collecting, copying, cataloging and storing hard research data.

This lesson covers the various types of documents found in family history research. Covering everything from copies of pages, to photos, newspaper clippings, to testimonies, and the storage of this data in paper and computerized files.

This course teaches what documents to keep for storage and which to discard. How to scan and how to preserve various sources for easy access and future retrieval.



Also covered and the most important of storage procedures...how to establish a system for recording notes, emails, photos, legal documents and all manner of paperwork.

This course also teaches, how to set up Master Family Files on your computer in one location for storage of these documents for easy retrieval and back up procedures.

The above method has been used by the author for over 40 years and teaches the student an easy system for storing vital and irreplaceable data.

Subscribers, upon completion of each lesson, complete a written exam testing their knowledge of the course contents and perform examples by implementing course principles. Each successful exam completes a step to the M.A.G.I. designation.

Upon completion of all M.A.G.I. course lessons, the student is awarded a certificate and the M.A.G.I. designation.

Course Lesson 2: Available as a .pdf file sent over email or on a cd for \$35.00

Course Lesson 3: **"The Hotel GEDCOM"**

To acquaint the researcher with the understanding of the GEDCOM capabilities of computer programs. To teach the proper procedures when saving, converting and creating genealogical files for use in various programs and multiple computers.

Using a unique and highly inventive analogy, Mr. Pratt teaches the basic understanding concerning the history and origins of the GEDCOM file. This GEDCOM system is used around the world as a standardized method of transporting information from one incompatible computer program and system to another.

This course not only educates the student to the history of this file, but also teaches the student how to import and export these files into various incompatible family history computer programs. Thereby, allowing you to share with family, friends and interested parties access to your family history data.

Subscribers, upon completion of each lesson, complete a written exam testing their knowledge of the course contents and perform examples by implementing course principles. Each successful exam completes a step to the M.A.G.I. designation.

Upon completion of all M.A.G.I. course lessons, the student is awarded a certificate and the M.A.G.I. designation.

Course Lesson 3: Available as a .pdf file sent over email or on a cd for \$35.00



Course Lesson 4: *"A Rose by any other name..."*

To acquaint the researcher with a uniform method for displaying maiden names, married names, subsequent married names and adopted names when it pertains to our female ancestors and relatives.

There are several instances where identifying a female's maiden surname, married name, adopted name and subsequent married names needs to be adopted into the family history research community as a standardized method.

This course teaches a method to standardize female birth surnames as to render any female's identity immediately recognizable to the genealogical community.

This method was developed over the last 39 years, which clarifies and conveys to the student an easy, recognizable marital status of any female, but also addresses married names, adopted names and subsequent married names.

Subscribers, upon completion of each lesson, complete a written exam testing their knowledge of the course contents and perform examples by implementing course principles. Each successful exam completes a step to the M.A.G.I. designation.

Upon completion of all M.A.G.I. course lessons, the student is awarded a certificate and the M.A.G.I. designation.

Course Lesson 4: Available as a .pdf file sent over email or on a cd for \$35.00

Course Lesson 5: **"THE ANATOMY OF THE CRADLE TO GRAVE (C2G) PROFILE"**

To acquaint the researcher with the proper techniques in organizing the data identifying their ancestor from the Cradle to the Grave, henceforth known as the Cradle to Grave [C2G] Profile.

Developed by this author over the last 38 years, the Cradle to Grave Profile is an extremely useful tool to the family history researcher.

After one identifies their ancestor, organizing various sources of documentation including but not exclusive, internet, courthouse, cemetery, census, federal military records, funeral home, land purchases and sales, newspaper articles and any other source that mentions or eludes to your ancestor is of primary importance.

The purpose of this accumulation of data is to verify your ancestor's existence, movements, achievements, failures and successes.



This course teaches the student where to collect source documents, and how to enter these references into their ancestor's notes.

Starting from birth and acquiring all known references to their ancestor's birth, following the natural progression of their ancestor's chronological events in their life, eventually concluding with their ancestor's gravesite information.

This course teaches the student how to create headings, source references, and comments also, how to add additional references and how to extract commentary conclusions from such data.

Once a profile has been created, following the chronological life of the individual is easy to read and understand and prepares the student for expanding what they have learned about their ancestor into a biographical story, article or book of that individual.

This course provides an example of a comprehensive Cradle to Grave Profile.

Subscribers, upon completion of each lesson, complete a written exam testing their knowledge of the course contents and perform examples by implementing course principles. Each successful exam completes a step to the M.A.G.I. designation.

Upon completion of all M.A.G.I. course lessons, the student is awarded a certificate and the M.A.G.I. designation.

Course Lesson 5: Available as a .pdf file sent over email or on a cd for \$35.00

Course Lesson 6: "**How to Breakdown Your Brick Wall**"

To acquaint the researcher with various techniques in identifying the parentage of their ancestor when no direct information can be found, consequently known in the genealogy field as "brick walls."

A brick wall is an ancestor you run across that just seems to pop-up out of thin air. You can't seem to find information about them or their parentage. Either this ancestor is the end-of-the-line in your family history tree or because of a lack of information about them, they create an end-of-line problem. We all have them.

This course teaches the student several methods for identifying their end-of-line ancestor and lists 11 sources for creating "bridges" to and from your ancestor and offers a 7-step process for identifying the next generation.

By following these 7 steps outlined in this lesson, the student will not only discover their "brick wall's" parentage, but most likely will discover additional generations.



Mr. Pratt offers examples of techniques such as mock census records, projecting, name and resident associations and provides hands-on examples of these successful methods.

Subscribers, upon completion of each lesson, complete a written exam testing their knowledge of the course contents and perform examples by implementing course principles. Each successful exam completes a step to the M.A.G.I. designation.

Upon completion of all M.A.G.I. course lessons, the student is awarded a certificate and the M.A.G.I. designation.

Course Lesson 6: Available as a .pdf file sent over email or on a cd for \$35.00

Course Lesson 7: ***"Virtual Road Trips"***

To acquaint the researcher with the process of utilizing a Virtual Road Trip without leaving their hometown. This chapter will explain the resources available for collecting, correlating, analyzing and acquiring data from local and Internet resources.

Due to the explosion of family history sources on the Internet, several websites offer extensive material to family history researchers. This course teaches the student where to find information concerning their ancestors from various websites, which are either fee based or free to the public.

Also, included in this course is information concerning local repositories housing various family history materials such as Family History Centers and libraries, including a section on plat maps, and indexing services as well as various websites of help and interest to the family history researcher.

Included is a section titled, "Before You Take the Road Trip" outlining the steps you should have taken before your sojourn to various locations looking for ancestor records.

Subscribers, upon completion of each lesson, complete a written exam testing their knowledge of the course contents and perform examples by implementing course principles. Each successful exam completes a step to the M.A.G.I. designation.

Upon completion of all M.A.G.I. course lessons, the student is awarded a certificate and the M.A.G.I. designation.

Course Lesson 7: Available as a .pdf file sent over email or on a cd for \$35.00



Course Lesson 8: **"How to Clean up Dirty Pictures"**

To acquaint the researcher with the process of cleaning up pictures and/or documents whether under the ***Joint Photographic Experts Group commonly known as a JPEG*** .jpeg format or the Device Independent Bitmap (DIB) file format known as the BITMAP .bmp formula.

Pictures of people, places or documents have...depending on the resolution, a small to excessive amount of dirt acquired by the copying or printing process. This dirt can manifest itself as particles of dust, blips, lines and erroneous markings spoiling or defacing the picture, document or drawing.

This course will introduce the student to various techniques used to remove these annoying distractions returning the document as close as possible to its original creation.

Utilizing various computer programs, such as Paint, which is free, and others, which can be purchased for a nominal fee, the student learns how to repair damaged pictures or documents and add captions to the document in or outside of frame.

This course is a must for those who have pictures but are unfamiliar with manipulating the contents with identifying headings and footnotes for future generations.

Subscribers, upon completion of each lesson, complete a written exam testing their knowledge of the course contents and perform examples by implementing course principles. Each successful exam completes a step to the M.A.G.I. designation.

Upon completion of all M.A.G.I. course lessons, the student is awarded a certificate and the M.A.G.I. designation.

Course Lesson 8: Available as a .pdf file sent over email or on a cd for \$35.00

Course Lesson 9: **"MAKING SENSE OF THE CENSUS"**

Acquaint the researcher with the understanding of the modern day census. To teach the student the proper procedures when searching, reading and recording census data.

After a brief history of the census and the importance thereof, Mr. Pratt details the historical significance of the census in the United States. Covering such subjects and soundex, mortality schedules, state and federal census, this course also examines the census syntax.

Explaining the census page section-by-section detailing each portion of the census record on a decade-by-decade basis offering a unique original census grid for each decade.



Offering keen observations to the student on what to look for, where to look for it, and how to read associations when viewing a census.

Subscribers, upon completion of each lesson, complete a written exam testing their knowledge of the course contents and perform examples by implementing course principles. Each successful exam completes a step to the M.A.G.I. designation.

Upon completion of all M.A.G.I. course lessons, the student is awarded a certificate and the M.A.G.I. designation.

Course Lesson 9: Available as a .pdf file sent over email or on a cd for \$35.00

Course Lesson 10: "**GRANTEE-GRANTOR WHAT'S THAT MEAN?**"

To acquaint the researcher with the symbols and diagrams of topographical maps, especially pertaining to reading of townships, sections and deed locations.

This course arms the student researcher with the knowledge of map reading for road trips to those locales mentioned in deeds. Contains examples of maps locating deed descriptions so one can find the property of their ancestors.

Examples of older deeds and the terms used then before our current day references. This course is for those who find map reading confusing and hard to understand.

Subscribers, upon completion of each lesson, complete a written exam testing their knowledge of the course contents and perform examples by implementing course principles. Each successful exam completes a step to the M.A.G.I. designation.

Upon completion of all M.A.G.I. course lessons, the student is awarded a certificate and the M.A.G.I. designation.

Course Lesson 10: Available as a .pdf file sent over email or on a cd for \$35.00

Course Lesson 11: "**RESEARCH MOBILITY**"

To acquaint the researcher with the process of locating, saving, transporting and sharing family history information.

Many of us use various genealogy programs to collect and store our family history material.

This course teaches how to locate and transport these vital records from the original location on your computer to a safe and secure location.



With varied genealogy programs, the average novice does not know where their information is stored on their computer or how to access that information.

In the event of a power failure, or computer malfunction, extracting that vital family history data is beyond the knowledge of most people.

Transporting their family history from one computer to another is also a skill that most cannot understand.

This course is designed to give the average family history researcher the ability to extract, transport and save their data so they may use their family history information on any computer they choose.

Subscribers, upon completion of each lesson, complete a written exam testing their knowledge of the course contents and perform examples by implementing course principles. Each successful exam completes a step to the M.A.G.I. designation.

Upon completion of all M.A.G.I. course lessons, the student is awarded a certificate and the M.A.G.I. designation.

Course Lesson 11: Available as a .pdf file sent over email or on a cd for \$35.00

Course Lesson 12: **“GENERATING REVENUE”**

This course teaches the advanced family history researcher how to publish their family histories. After the hard work of research, collecting and correlating your ancestor's Cradle to Grave Reports (C2G) there are several avenues of publishing these reports and generating revenue.

This course teaches how to create Cradle to Grave (C2G) Individual Reports, Family Group Sheet Reports, Descendancy Reports, Ancestry Reports, Pedigree Reports and biographical books.

Also, you learn how to generate these reports within various genealogy programs, as Adobe Acrobat .pdf files, Word documents .doc and common text files.

Mr. Pratt also, teaches the student how to create cover pages, contents, indexes, inserting photos, deeds and other vital documents competing the publishing process.

This course also offers various methods of displaying these creations and how to maximize your distribution to the clients and customers who would be interested in your ancestors.

Subscribers, upon completion of each lesson, complete a written exam testing their knowledge of the course contents and perform examples by implementing course principles. Each successful exam completes a step to the M.A.G.I. designation.



Upon completion of all M.A.G.I. course lessons, the student is awarded a certificate and the M.A.G.I. designation.

Course Lesson 12: Available as a .pdf file sent over email or on a cd for \$35.00

Pedigree Chart for Floyd Thomas "Tom" Pratt F. H. C., M. A. G. I. by Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I.

<p>4 Columbus B A Pratt b. 1 December 1893 p. Hamilton Hollow, Johnson ~ m. 12 April 1919 p. Bourbon, Boone Twp, Craw~ d. 27 July 1947 p. Bourbon, Boone Twp, Craw~</p>	<p>8 Henry Winslow "Win" Pratt b. 6 September 1869 p. near Osage Post Office, J~ m. 29 January 1893 p. Vilander, Liberty Twp, Craw~ d. 24 March 1914 p. near Crow's Creek, Boone~</p>	<p>16 Alexander "Alex" R. Pratt b. March 1831 d. 1912</p>	<p>32 Henry Pratt b. 1800-1803</p>
			<p>33 Nancy Carter b. 1802-1803</p>
<p>2 Floyd Theodore "Ted" Pratt b. 6 January 1927 p. near Bourbon, Boone Twp, Crawford~ m. 1 March 1947 p. Saint Clair, Central Twp, Franklin, M~ d. p.</p>	<p>9 Mary L M Missé Missey b. 20 February 1874 p. Johnson Twp, Washington~ d. 17 April 1938 p. Bourbon, Boone Twp, Craw~</p>	<p>17 Mary Kimberlin b. 1835 d. 1876-1880</p>	<p>34 Rhinehart E. Kimberlin b. 1805</p>
			<p>35 Frances Jane Peters b. 1804</p>
<p>5 Rue Flavilla Johnson b. 19 March 1894 p. Bourbon, Boone Twp, Craw~ d. 26 June 1983 p. Briarwood Manor Nursing ~</p>	<p>10 Judge J M Johnson Sr. b. 29 September 1854 p. Moselle, Central Twp, Frank~ m. 14 May 1884 p. Liberty Twp, Crawford, Mis~ d. 21 May 1941 p. Bourbon, Boone Twp, Craw~</p>	<p>18 François C Missé Missey b. 5 July 1845 d. 26 April 1916</p>	<p>36 Jean B Missé Missey b. 28 May 1821</p>
			<p>37 Marie Françoise Piquette b. 4 January 1826</p>
<p>1 Floyd T Pratt F. H. C., M. A. G. I. b. 3 January 1948 p. City Hospital #1, 1515 Lafayette Av~ m. 14 August 1972 p. Tyler Place United Presbyterian Ch~ d. p. sp. Bonnie Kathleen Bach</p>	<p>11 Mary Jane T Barton b. 18 January 1861 p. near Pine Mountain Post Of~ d. 10 June 1913 p. Walnut Street, Bourbon Vil~</p>	<p>19 Cynthia N. Talbot b. 3 April 1848 d. 28 March 1896</p>	<p>38 Benjamin "Ben" Talbott b. 15 June 1811</p>
			<p>39 Laura Farris b. 12 February 1818</p>
<p>6 Peter Conley Brown b. 12 January 1893 p. Sharon, Weakley, Tennes~ m. 16 March 1924 p. Dyer, Tennessee, United S~ d. 3 December 1972 p. Halls, District #8, Lauderdale~</p>	<p>12 John A. Brown b. May 1844 p. Perry, Tennessee, United ~ m. 18 November 1891 p. Dresden, Weakley, Tenne~ d. 31 July 1928 p. Nashville, Hermitage, Davi~</p>	<p>20 Martin Johnson b. 22 March 1805 d. 27 September 1859</p>	<p>40 Benjamin Johnson b. 31 March 1775</p>
			<p>41 Amelia b. 23 November 1769</p>
<p>3 Delores "Doe" Virginia Brown b. 31 October 1925 p. City Hospital #1, 1515 Lafayette Av~ d. 1 March 1981 p. Queen of Angels Hospital, 2301 Bel~</p>	<p>13 Obedience "Bedie" Lackey b. 6 February 1871 p. near District 8 Post Office, ~ d. 14 January 1924 p. Western State Hospital, Bol~</p>	<p>21 Comfort Osborn b. 10 June 1814 d. 26 April 1877</p>	<p>42 William Osborn b. 4 July 1777</p>
			<p>43 Rebecca Richmond b. 1784</p>
<p>7 Olga Elmira O'Daniel b. 11 March 1907 p. Island 21, Dyer, Tennessee~ d. 7 October 1993 p. Los Angeles, Los Angeles~</p>	<p>14 James Leonidas O'Daniel b. 15 December 1869 p. near Rutherford Post Offic~ m. 22 May 1897 p. Dyer, Tennessee, United S~ d. 8 March 1921 p. Baird-Dulaney Hospital, Dy~</p>	<p>22 William "Billy" Barton b. 20 November 1831 d. 7 January 1922</p>	<p>44 John Milton Barton b. 1799</p>
			<p>45 Sophia Keitle b. 1807</p>
<p>15 Daisy Dean Bell b. 7 September 1881 p. District #19, Walnut Grove~ d. 14 May 1920 p. Jackson Crossing, Civil Dist~</p>	<p>15 Mary Jane T Barton b. 18 January 1861 p. near Pine Mountain Post Of~ d. 10 June 1913 p. Walnut Street, Bourbon Vil~</p>	<p>23 Harriet King b. 23 July 1834 d. 3 February 1920</p>	<p>46 Rev. Jonathan King b. 20 December 1800</p>
			<p>47 Mary Holt b. 29 April 1808</p>
<p>16 Alexander "Alex" R. Pratt b. March 1831 d. 1912</p>	<p>17 Mary Kimberlin b. 1835 d. 1876-1880</p>	<p>18 François C Missé Missey b. 5 July 1845 d. 26 April 1916</p>	<p>48 Joseph Brown Sr. b. 1785</p>
			<p>49 Lydia Hammonds b. 1792</p>
<p>17 Mary Kimberlin b. 1835 d. 1876-1880</p>	<p>18 François C Missé Missey b. 5 July 1845 d. 26 April 1916</p>	<p>19 Cynthia N. Talbot b. 3 April 1848 d. 28 March 1896</p>	<p>50 b.</p>
			<p>51 b.</p>
<p>18 François C Missé Missey b. 5 July 1845 d. 26 April 1916</p>	<p>19 Cynthia N. Talbot b. 3 April 1848 d. 28 March 1896</p>	<p>20 Martin Johnson b. 22 March 1805 d. 27 September 1859</p>	<p>52 Enos Lackey b. 1797</p>
			<p>53 Luvina Beard b. 1804</p>
<p>19 Cynthia N. Talbot b. 3 April 1848 d. 28 March 1896</p>	<p>20 Martin Johnson b. 22 March 1805 d. 27 September 1859</p>	<p>21 Comfort Osborn b. 10 June 1814 d. 26 April 1877</p>	<p>54 b.</p>
			<p>55 b.</p>
<p>20 Martin Johnson b. 22 March 1805 d. 27 September 1859</p>	<p>21 Comfort Osborn b. 10 June 1814 d. 26 April 1877</p>	<p>22 William "Billy" Barton b. 20 November 1831 d. 7 January 1922</p>	<p>56 Alexander O'Daniel Sr. b. Abt 1749</p>
			<p>57 Annie Keathley b. 18 July 1782</p>
<p>21 Comfort Osborn b. 10 June 1814 d. 26 April 1877</p>	<p>22 William "Billy" Barton b. 20 November 1831 d. 7 January 1922</p>	<p>23 Harriet King b. 23 July 1834 d. 3 February 1920</p>	<p>58 John Gordon b. 1813</p>
			<p>59 Nancy b. 1820</p>
<p>22 William "Billy" Barton b. 20 November 1831 d. 7 January 1922</p>	<p>23 Harriet King b. 23 July 1834 d. 3 February 1920</p>	<p>24 Joseph Brown Jr. b. 1827 d.</p>	<p>60 b.</p>
			<p>61 b.</p>
<p>23 Harriet King b. 23 July 1834 d. 3 February 1920</p>	<p>24 Joseph Brown Jr. b. 1827 d.</p>	<p>25 Catherine b. 1825 d.</p>	<p>62 Alexander Jackson b. 1840</p>
			<p>63 Mariah "Mary" Ledbetter b. 1840</p>

A Little Something About Your Author.....

Floyd Thomas Pratt, F.H.C., M.A.G.I.



At the age of 19, Tom Pratt embarked on a career in law enforcement. This experience gave him training in detective and investigative skills. Little did Mr. Pratt know, how useful these skills would be in the field of genealogy.

Tom Pratt started his family research career in 1975 after becoming a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. His first calling as a new member was to serve in the newly created genealogical department or known today as the Family History Center in the Springfield, Missouri ward. This two-year calling gave Mr. Pratt a tremendous amount of experience helping others to research their families.

In fact, he felt family research came easy and required little effort on his part. In reality, years of reading and studying increased his expertise and he made it look easy to others.

Over the course of several years, Mr. Pratt was asked by his church to instruct several family history courses. This experience established a deep profound love for family and ancestors.

It was not uncommon for Mr. Pratt to spend 4 to 8 hours a day researching and compiling family histories in addition to his duties, as an entrepreneur in the insurance business.

The first major achievement for Mr. Pratt was a breakthrough on his Pratt family back to the early 1800's. Not satisfied with just the direct line research, Mr. Pratt branched out to research all connected lines and allied families.

This dedication led to 42,000 individuals and achieved expert status for Mr. Pratt on the families of middle and eastern Missouri, eastern and western Tennessee and central North Carolina.

Concerning Mr. Pratt's style of research, he is a strong supporter of the "hands on" approach. When he took family vacations, they usually went to libraries, cemeteries, courthouses, National Archive centers, and visited family members in various states. He attended multi-state family reunions and obtained his material from the actual sources when possible.

A Little Something About Your Author.....

Being a researcher of the highest degree, in 1991, Mr. Pratt formed the Pratt Publications Company and offered to the public, a series of books titled, The Pratt Progenitor Papers. This series of volumes are a collection of legal documents, stories, pictures and historical presentations concerning the families of Missouri, Tennessee and North Carolina.

The first three Volumes were released to the public in 1991 and were issued to 18 different libraries including the Library of Congress and the St. Louis Public Library. The next 7 volumes were published with a total of 43 volumes scheduled for publication.

In 1996, Mr. Pratt formed the Genealogical Institute to further the education of serious researchers.

The Genealogical Institute offers a series of educational materials to teach and instruct the uninitiated in the procedures of family history research. These courses offer "a hands on" curriculum designed to instruct in investigative, deductive reasoning and logical procedures for tracking your family history.

Beginners and experienced researchers have found a treasure chest of knowledge when undertaking these courses. Mr. Pratt has taken the hobby of genealogy and has enhanced it into a science. Heavy on instructions concerning documentation, research procedures, alternative sources and common public records, this course is a valuable tool for the researcher. One of Mr. Pratt's favorite sections of the course is teaching researchers "how to stop" researching and compile their information for publication.

Upon completion of the educational courses from the Genealogical Institute, the graduate is awarded the **Master Accreditation of the Genealogical Institute. (M.A.G.I.)**

This designation is equivalent to a Doctorate Degree and signifies the recipient has been trained and demonstrated superior research techniques.

Mr. Pratt's ability in family history research has amazed many educated researchers. When Mr. Pratt is asked for help concerning their "brick wall" in their family research, his quick wit and logical mind rapid fires instructions and procedures so fast they cannot write the material quickly enough. Little do they realize this knowledge has been acquired over 30 years of experience and research.

In June of 2000, Mr. Pratt undertook a new and unprecedented task.

Outside of Washington, Franklin County, Missouri is an old cemetery called the Johnson-Caldwell Cemetery. This cemetery has many pioneer heroes and ancestors of various descendants from that region. Some of the inhabitants were born in the 1750's and traveled west to Missouri after the 1803 Louisiana Purchase.

A Little Something About Your Author.....

Mr. Pratt took down all the information off the headstones, including every person in the cemetery and researched each individual related or not. 1000 man-hours and two years later, he published the book "Johnson-Caldwell Cemetery of Franklin County, Missouri"© 2001.

Obtaining newspapers, legal documents, personal interviews with ancestors and researching various sources for any and all information concerning the history of the cemetery and the inhabitants produced this master text. What makes this book stand out among the rest is basic content and structure.

First, it is the only book to cover the known and reported inhabitants of an entire cemetery.

Second, this book reports on each inhabitant, their birth and activities throughout their life until their death, including their ancestors, spouses and children.

Third, even the index is unique, listing the individual and their father's name if known. This is extremely helpful when several individuals have the same given name.

Upon examination, professional researchers have hailed this body of work as a masterpiece and a standard in which all future research of cemeteries should be based. In their opinion, no one has ever produced a body of work about a cemetery as unique and professional as this publication.

Currently, Mr. Pratt is working on a series of books from the [Pratt Archive Collections](#), which is a series of biographical publications concerning a progenitor and a generation of descendants. This collection is a "cradle to grave" report, which covers the subject's ancestry, birth, marriage, children, and geographical domiciles as well as the political environment during the subject's lifetime.

In addition, Mr. Pratt is working on additional volumes of the Pratt Progenitor Papers and several books on public records.

With all these accomplishments, Mr. Pratt humbly refers to himself as a Genealogical Anthropologist...resurrecting progenitors.

We in the genealogical world are deeply grateful to be associates of a man of Mr. Pratt's caliber. Through his dedication to helping the novice as well as the professional researcher, future generations will benefit by his advances in the genealogical field.

In addition, we are thankful for the inspiration that sparks men like Mr. Pratt to magnify their love for people and history. We feel, with a lifetime dedicated to the genealogical pursuit of truth and knowledge, Mr. Pratt's accumulative body of work, will stand as a quintessential manifestation of this divine love.

Lewton Cole, Chairman
Genealogical Institute

GENEALOGY ETIQUETTE

1. Do not give copies or reproduce the information you received from the compiler or author without written permission.
2. In your research efforts if you are able to advance the research, then reciprocate by sharing your research information with the compiler.
3. Use the information you receive as a starting point for your research of your families.
4. If you decide to use information you have received, in a book, document or research material, be sure to acknowledge the author or compiler of that material.
5. All inquiries by third parties for a copy of the material should be forwarded to the original compiler or author.
6. Do not loan or share your information, family heirlooms, special documents, one of a kind, pictures, or irreplaceable materials to non-professional researchers or family members. These types of materials seen to disappear or become damaged.
7. Make copies of important documents or materials when at libraries and be sure to write the name of the book, source, letter or film with the author's name and page number and year of publication.
8. Genealogy work that is not documented is of little value. Remember, you are leaving a trail for those who follow. If future researchers have to verify your work, then of what value is your work?
9. Collect family stories from those relatives who are still alive. This is a short cut to your past and they hold a world of knowledge about your family.
10. Do not try to finance all your research alone. Ask for financial assistance from interested family members.

Remember, the family history information that is so easily exchanged today by computer was acquired over years and years of on-site research. While many were engaged in raising families, working for income, and surviving, genealogist researchers did these things **AND** spent their free time in pursuit of the truth about their ancestors. This pursuit required great sacrifice of time, effort and money. Many researchers went to the actual locations to view the marriage, deed, death and birth records including visiting the cemeteries across the United States and foreign countries. This is why it is important to follow the above guidelines; by doing so, you give respect to their work and honor to their memory. Thank You.

Floyd Thomas Pratt, F.H.C., M.A.G.I.

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